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## NATIONAL SANITARY CONDITIONS

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

For the Year 1939 December 31st, 1939.

### SCOPE OF THE REPORT.

Under Article 10 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and in accordance with Circulars 1931 (Wales) and 2007 (Wales) of the Ministry of Health (Welsh Board of Health), the Annual Report for the year 1939 has been vasterically shortened, many items being omitted entirely. Generally, it has been restricted to Vital Statistics and brief comments on vital matters.

The progress of many schemes which were in various stages of preparation has necessarily been seriously interfered with as a result of the outbreak of war.

### ALTERATIONS TO BOUNDARIES.

The boundaries of the Administrative County remained unaltered throughout the year.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### OF THE AREA

Area (in acres - 340,110

Population (1931) Census, 318,115.

do. Estimated 1939, 308,200

do. Estimated (for use with records of births, ...

303,720

do. do. (for use with records of infectious diseases and deaths

306,180

Rateable value, £1,100,500

Sum represented by a penny rate £4,064.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** - The County of Monmouth is partly industrial and partly agricultural. The Rhymney, Sirhowy, Western and Eastern Villages are thickly populated coal mining districts, in which are also Iron, Steel and Tinplate works. In addition there are coal by-products plants in some of these districts. The Eastern and Southern portions of the County are practically agricultural communities.

Unemployment has considerably diminished, but in other directions the war has seriously interfered with the general social conditions of the County.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1939, compiled by the Registrar-General are as in the



subjecting table. The following figures are given for the year 1939 compared with 1938.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population				Death rate per 1,000 living		Deaths under one year per 1,000 births	
	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938
ENGLAND AND WALES	15.0	0.59	15.1	0.6	12.1	11.6	50.0	53.0
County Down, and other towns, including ...	14.8	0.59	15.0	0.65	12.0	11.7	55.0	57.0
Smaller Towns (estimated resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at census 1931)	15.6	0.57	15.4	0.60	11.2	11.0	40.0	51.0
Rural	12.3	0.44	13.4	0.48	11.9	11.4	48.0	57.0
ROUNDS	15.9	0.65	16.1	0.90	12.8	12.1	61.2	55.8

In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by the Registrar General have been used for the purpose of this table.

EXHIBITS - The number of births assigned to the Administrative County for 1939 was 4,835 made up as follows :-

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Grand Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Urban Districts	2,100	1,990	75	34	2,275	2,024	4,299
Rural Districts	271	201	11	0	282	201	483
	2,474	2,191	86	34	2,560	2,225	4,785

There were 109 less births in 1939 than in 1938 when there were 4,944 births. In 1937 there were 4,021 births, in 1936 5,005 births.

The birth rate for 1939 (15.9 per 1,000 persons living) is lower than that for 1938 (16.1). The 1938 figures showed the lowest for a number of years, but the 1939 figure returns to 1931 for 1936, 16.1.

The birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1939 was 15.0.

For the Urban districts of the County the birth rate was 13.4 per 1,000 for 1939, and for the Rural Districts, 12.2 compared with 13.4 and 16.1 respectively in 1938 and 16.0 and 12.7 in 1937.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 159 which is a rate of 32.8 per 1,000 of the total births, and .52 per 1,000 population. Last year the number was 139 equal to 38.2 per 1,000 births and .61 per 1,000 of population. For the year 1937 the number was 139 equal to 38.2 per 1,000 births and .61 per 1,000 of population.





1937 the figures were 12.5 equal to 12.2 per 1,000 births and 12.2 per 1,000 population.

The total number of births registered in the Administrative County in the year was 4,898. This figure includes births finally assigned to other areas under arrangements made by the Registrar-General for the transfer to areas of usual residence of mothers residing away from home on account of the war, and is the figure used for the purpose of calculating infant and maternity death rates. It includes one additional male illegitimate birth which was finally assigned to another area.

DEATHS. - The total number of deaths registered in the Administrative County as shown by the Registrar-General's table, was 3,921, as compared with 3,734 in 1936, 3,911 in 1937, 3,827 in 1938, and 3,761 in 1935.

Deaths of persons temporarily residing in the County on account of the war are not transferable to areas of usual residence.

The general death rate calculated upon the specially computed rate of population submitted by the Registrar-General 306,180 works out at 12.8 per 1,000 living. In 1936 the rate was 12.1, in 1937 12.6, in 1938 12.2, and in 1935 11.5. For the Urban Districts the rate for 1939 was 12.8 and for the Rural Districts 12.5.

The County Death Rate of 12.8 per 1,000 of population shows an increase on 1938, when the rate was 12.1 and is higher than that for England and Wales, 12.1.

STILLBIRTHS. - The number of stillbirths recorded during the year was 236, compared with 283 in 1938 and 284 in 1937. The rate per 1,000 of population for 1939 is .85; in 1938 it was .92 and in 1937 .90. This rate continues to compare unfavourably with that for England and Wales, which for 1939 was .59.

WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF, CHILDBIRTH. - The number of deaths registered during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 15, 1 from puerperal sepsis and 14 from other causes associated with childbirth. This is equal to a rate of 3.06 per 1,000 live births. The particularly high rate of last year (7.68) is thus not maintained. In fact, the 1939 rate is considerably lower than any rate previously returned for the County and is at last reasonably comparable with that for England and Wales (2.93). The reduction in the rate is almost entirely due to the decrease in deaths from Sepsis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. - The total number of deaths under one year of age throughout the Administrative County was 300, 280 in the Urban Districts and 20 in the Rural Districts.

The rate per 1,000 births was 61.2 an increase of 5.4 upon the rate for 1938, which was 55.8.

In the Urban Districts the rate was 63.6 per 1,000 births, in the Rural Districts 40.1 per 1,000 births.

In 1938 the Infantile Mortality rate was 55.8, in 1937 61.7 and in 1935 61.4.

The rate for England and Wales was 50.0.





The average infantile mortality rate for the 25 years 1891 - 1915 was 187.4. The average rate for the 24 years 1916 - 1939 was 74.3.

The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 7, or 1.4 per 1,000 of all births, and 43.7 per 1,000 of illegitimate births. Last year the number of deaths was 10 or 2.0 per 1,000 of all births, and 52.9 per 1,000 of illegitimate births.

The measures adopted by the County Council for the reduction of Infantile Mortality are dealt with in the Report upon Maternity and Child Welfare for the year 1939.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Urban Districts	Rural Districts	Administrative County.	Rate per 1000 Births Administrative County.
Infectious Diseases	19	2	21	4.2
Acute Diseases	26	-	26	5.3
Febrile Diseases	134	16	150	30.6
Respiratory Diseases	66	2	68	13.8
Circulatory Diseases	-	-	-	-
Other Causes	35	-	35	7.1
TOTALS	280	20	300	61.2

The number of deaths in the Administrative County from the following diseases was :-

Measles - all ages	13
Whooping Cough - all ages	16
Diarrhoea - under 2 years of age	32

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The accompanying table shows that there has been a considerable increase in the demand for Laboratory work in the County during the year 1939.

The laboratory continues to undertake work for Authorities outside the Administrative County, and during the present year the Public Health work of the Crickhowell Urban District Council has been undertaken.

As a result of the War, the Laboratory undertook the organisation and laboratory work of the Newport and Monmouthshire R.P. Blood Transfusion Service, and there are now between two and three thousand volunteer blood donors available, all of whom have been tested.

The work of the Laboratory is likely to suffer to some extent owing to the fact that several of the junior members have been called for military duties. Also, owing to energies of the District Sanitary Inspectors having been diverted in some degree to R.P. duties, the routine examination of milk and water samples is likely to be affected.



Table showing nature of specimens submitted and the results thereof :-

	No. Pos.	No. Neg.	Total Grand	No. Pos.	No. Neg.	Total Exam.
Wassermann Test for Syphilis	844	1307	2151	811	1442	2253
Complement Fixation Test for Gonorrhoeal	133	462	645	257	418	675
Stains and Urines for Gonococcus	614	3443	4057	503	2814	3372
Stain for Spirochaeta Pallidum	11	39	50	12	41	53
Stain -						
For Tuberculosis Physicians for T.B.	513	1218	1734	450	1210	1660
Crusty Cases for T.B. (General Practitioners)	43	375	418	64	374	438
Concentration Method for T.B.	-	2	2	-	-	-
For cultivation as well as T.B.	-	-	93	-	-	57
Throat, Nasal and Ear Swabs for Diphtheria	1531	11880	13381	1121	5691	6812
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	-	-	98	-	-	95
Widal Reaction for Typhoid Fever etc.	14	53	67	20	91	111
Stains for Ringworm	21	30	51	3	7	10
Examinations from Eye	-	-	48	-	-	36
Stain, (complete examination)	-	-	322	-	-	296
-	-	-	70	-	-	94
Stain	-	-	52	-	-	40
Stain	-	-	70	-	-	65
Stain Culture	-	-	18	-	-	15
Stain Miscellaneous	-	-	1053	-	-	797
Stain	-	-	336	-	-	400
Stain Count	-	-	332	-	-	353
Stain	-	-	35	-	-	33
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	-	-	63	-	-	67
Stain Grouping	-	-	30	-	-	35
Stain for Microscopical Exam.	-	-	109	-	-	131
Stain-Sugar Examination	-	-	101	-	-	133
Stain-Urea Estimation	-	-	70	-	-	40
Stain-Sugar Estimation	-	-	157	-	-	181
Stain-Urea Estimation	-	-	16	-	-	87
Stain Stain	-	-	33	-	-	35
Stain Miscellaneous	-	-	135	-	-	173
Stain for Bacteriological Exam.	-	-	120	-	-	153
Stain for Bacteriological and Chemical Examination	-	-	236	-	-	123
Stain -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stain Roadside and School Samples	-	-	1207	-	-	1325
Stain Samples	-	-	422	-	-	465
Stain Examination	-	-	121	-	-	138
Stain of Agriculture, Biological Examination	-	-	338	-	-	211
Stain Miscellaneous Milk Samples	-	-	343	-	-	191
Stain Inoculation	-	-	-	-	-	5
Stain	-	-	1953	-	-	2109
	-	-	30472	-	-	23496



The number of renewals of Accredited Milk Licences for 1939 were 67 to produce and 7 to produce and bottle. New licences for the year numbered 26 to produce, and 3 transferred from Tuberculin Tested to produce Accredited milk. 14 Accredited licences to produce were substituted by Tuberculin Tested Licences and one Accredited licence to produce transferred to Tuberculin Tested standard. One licence suffered suspension during the year.

Renewals of Tuberculin Tested licences to produce milk numbered 33, while 8 holders renewed their licences to produce and bottle milk. New licences for Tuberculin Tested milk totalled 10, 9 being for production only, and one for production and bottling. Tuberculin Tested licences were substituted for Accredited Licences in 19 cases, 16 for production and 3 for production and bottling.

The position at the end of 1939, with regard to Accredited Milk was, that 81 licences were in operation for production and 6 for production and bottling. Tuberculin Tested Licences at the end of the year numbered 67, 54 being for production and 13 for production and bottling.

#### Agricultural Act, 1937.

Attestation standard was reached by 138 herds in the County during the year.

The Licence of Attestation is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association of which Lady Mather Jackson is the Honorary Secretary continues its good work. The Association is subsidised by the County Council. Midwifery work in the rural areas and agricultural townships for the Council in accordance with the scheme prepared by virtue of the Midwifery Act, 1936, is also performed by the County Council.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There was no change in ambulance facilities in the County during the year, neither as regards the transport of infectious nor of non-infectious cases, except the inauguration of the A.R.P. Emergency Ambulance Services to deal with casualties resulting from enemy action.

The County Council has now purchased a 26 h.p. Austin ambulance for use in conveying patients to and from the Lydia Boynton Maternity Hospital. (The Coldra).





## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The County Council has established 43 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in this County and 16 Ante-natal Clinics.

The County Education Committee has provided 11 School Clinics.

There are no day nurseries in the County.

The Tuberculosis Visiting Stations are detailed later in this report.

There is one Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, details of which will be found later in this report.

The County Council has established 8 Clinics for the treatment of Orthopaedic Cases at Newport, Pongam, Crumlin, Tredoglar, Pontypool, Monmouth, Chepstow and Abertillery. The Central Orthopaedic Clinic is at Newport, at which massage, electric treatment and remedial exercises are given.

Consideration of the scheme for the establishment of a major central clinic near Newport, and for six other clinics at Blackwood, Crumlin, Tredoglar, Pontypool, Rhymney and Abercromby at the estimated total cost of £50,000 has been postponed until more favourable circumstances present themselves.

## MEDICAL CONSULTATION CLINIC.

This Clinic was opened 12th. April, 1940, for the consultation of cases referred by District Medical Officers and by the Assistant Medical Officers of the County Staff, as well as by cases referred by General Practitioners. The establishment of this Clinic has been of an inestimable value as it has placed within the reach of poor persons the advice and treatment of a first class Physician.

Dr. Ivor Davies, M.D., F.R.C.P., the Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, and Lecturer in Clinical Medicine for the Welsh National School of Medicine was unanimously appointed Consultant Physician, and he holds at least fifteen Clinics every year for this purpose. The attendance at these has been on an average a dozen cases which are a sufficient number to enable adequate investigation to be given to each case. The Medical profession on Monmouthshire and the patients themselves have been complimentary and grateful for the services rendered.

## HOSPITALS.

Full details of the Hospital Services, Public and Voluntary have been given in previous reports.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

The Abergavenny and Monmouth Poor Law Institutions with the exception of Casual Wards have now been closed. The Caerleon Institution is at present used for other purposes.

## POOR LAW MEDICAL OUT RELIEF.

Orthopaedic treatment is carried out under the supervision of the Consultants - Mr. A. Roach Jones, F.R.C.S., of Harley Street, London, and Mr. D.N. Roach Jones, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. Details of examination will be found under the heading "Orthopaedic Treatment".





# INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The incidence of mental deficiency in the County is as follows:-

	Under 7 years.			7 - 16 years.			16 - 30 years.			Over 30 years.			Grand Totals.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Idiots	-	3	3	7	2	9	9	6	15	-	7	7	16	18	34
Imbeciles	3	5	8	25	18	43	40	38	78	22	4	16	90	108	198
Low Grade	-	-	-	4	2	6	30	36	66	29	49	78	63	87	150
Foeblo															
Minded															
Medium Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	35	63	28	36	64	56	71	127
Foeblo															
Minded															
High Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	30	73	50	33	83	93	63	156
Foeblo															
Minded															
Mental Defectives.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	10	-	-	-	4	6	10
Epileptics and	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	9	6	9	15	10	14	24
Mentally															
Defectives.															
Epileptic only.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	3	2	5	6	4	10
TOTALS	3	8	11	30	22	58	161	153	319	138	183	321	338	371	709

N.B. This table does not include the defectives who are at Certified Institutions, but it includes 34 males and 33 females who are detained at the County Mental Hospital, and 5 males and 8 females who are inmates of the County Public Assistance Institutions. There are also 77 boys and 36 girls between the ages of 5 and 16 years on the school side.

There is still difficulty in finding accommodation suitable for mental defectives.

The admissions to institutions during the year were as follows:-

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Brontry Colony, Bristol ... ..	1	-	1
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol ... ..	2	2	4
Coedygric Institution, Griffithstown	-	1	1
Mount Olivet, Farnham ... ..	1	-	1
	4	3	7
Placed under guardianship	1	1	2

## MIDWIVES.

The number of Midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st. December, 1939 was 157.



MATERNAL MORTALITY, HEALTH VISITING, CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

Any matters under these heads requiring special comment is dealt with in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Annual Report for 1939.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Details of examinations of school children and children under 5 years will be found in the County Education and Maternity and Child Welfare Annual Reports for the year 1939.

The services of the Consultants - Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., and Mr. D.N. Rocyn Jones, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., - are also available for adult cases, the following examinations being made during the year:-

	<u>PUBLIC ASSIST- ANCE CASES.</u>	<u>OTHER ADULT CASES.</u>
Mr. A. Rocyn Jones	7	26
Mr. D.N. Rocyn Jones	192	45

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

As was the case in 1938, 4 Nursing Homes were registered and exemption from registration granted in 9 instances. No powers were delegated to district councils under Section 194 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

LYDIA BEYNON MATERNITY HOSPITAL- The Coldra, together with 7½ acres of land, was gifted to the Monmouthshire County Council by Sir John Beynon, C.B.E., on the 30th. November, 1924, for the purpose of a Maternity Hospital in memory of his mother. The adaption of the Coldra as a Maternity Hospital under the County marks another step in the steady march of this County towards a reduction of the high incidence of maternal mortality - a matter which has been of grave concern for many years as the Maternal Death rates for this County have consistently been constantly higher than that of England and Wales. Every effort must still be made to check this.

The Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital (The Coldra) was formerly opened on the 22nd. January, 1940, for the reception of cases for difficult labour or cases in which complications may arise. Co-operation between the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and this Hospital should have far reaching effects upon the Maternal Mortality of the County.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. Full details are given in previous reports.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. Full details are given in previous report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Progress still continues to be made in the conversion of privies, pail closets, etc., into water closets, this being possible where subsidiary sewers have been provided by the various local authorities.





## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse varies according to the conditions prevailing in the various districts. Usually the refuse is collected two or three times in a week. In most instances the work is done by motor lorries fitted with suitable covers.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Mr. J. Jonkin Evans, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., the County Sanitary Inspector assists the County Medical Officer in his sanitary investigations.

## SHOPS.

Improvements are still being effected under the various legislatures for the improvement of the health and comfort of workers in shops. The Factories Act, 1937, which came into operation on the 1st. July, 1938, will secure a general improvement in the conditions of factories and work-places.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Now swimming baths and pools in the County are on modern lines with up to date filtration and cleansing plants. Facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory for the examination of water from swimming baths and pools.

## SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of schools is subject to District Sanitary Inspections, whilst the School Medical Officers and the County Sanitary Inspector also deal with it at their periodical visits to the schools. The special survey by the School Medical Officers of school buildings which commenced in 1925, was continued, and during the year 1938 all school buildings visited by the School Medical Officers were inspected and a summary of the reports is given in detail in the County Education Annual Report for the year 1938.

## HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

The object of the Act, which is administered by the County Council, is to secure a contribution to the improvement of housing conditions for agricultural labourers and other country workers by facilitating the reconditioning of old houses on such a way as to bring them up to modern standards of comfort and sanitation and by the conversion into dwellings of buildings not previously used for that purpose.

During the year one application for a grant was received in respect of one dwelling, and £100 was offered. Work, however, was not undertaken by applicant, and grant was not earned.

No loans were applied for during the year.

Work under the Act has been suspended during the War.

More detailed information regarding the working of the Act and the percentage of overcrowding in the various county districts will be found in the Report for the 1936.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1932.

The East Monmouthshire Joint Planning Committee area covers some 191,960 acres of the agricultural portion of the County and includes the three market towns of Abergavenny, Monmouth and Usk. Good progress has been made since the Committee's first meeting in 1938.





# ADULTERATION, etc.

Samples of foodstuffs, including butter, milk, margarine, etc., are sent to Mr. G. Rudd Thompson, F.I.C., Dock Street, Newport, who is the Public Analyst appointed for the County. At a meeting of the Works and General Purposes Committee, held on the 13th July, 1920, it was decided that the County Medical Officer should exercise general supervision over the action to be taken in pursuance of the Acts and Regulations under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and that he, the County Analyst, and if necessary, the Clerk should confer as to the details necessary to secure observance of the Acts and Regulations.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Full details of the work carried out under the Food and Drugs Act will be found in the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector, Mr. G. C. Jenkins, to the General Purposes Committee of the County Council. The following is the portion dealing with the examination of milk samples :-

During the year, 1029 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst. Of those there were 788 New Milk; 1 Skimmed Milk; 20 "Appeal to Cow"; 28 "In Course of Delivery" and 192 samples of other food stuffs. Of these, 41 samples - 3.97% of the total number of samples - were certified by the Analyst as not "Up to Standard". I am pleased to report that this percentage of adulteration is lower than that of last year. The total amount of Fines and Costs collected is £53. 5s. -d.

In these days of rationing, it is essential that the position of food stuffs should be carefully watched, and if necessary, a larger number of articles of food submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Isolation Hospitals.

Full details of Isolation Hospitals in the County will be found in the Annual Report for 1933.

### Infectious Diseases, 1939.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases are Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (including Typhus, Enteric and Continued Fevers), and Diarrhoea (under 2 years).

These diseases caused 90 deaths and gave a Zymotic death-rate of .294 for the County, as compared with a rate of .18 for 1938; .24 for the year 1937; .26 for 1936; .34 for 1935 and .46 for 1934.

The following table shows the death and attack (notification) rate for Zymotic Diseases in the County of Monmouth during the year 1939.

	No. of deaths.	Death Rate per 1000 of population.	No. of not- ifications.	Attack Rate per 1000 of population.
Small Pox	NIL		NIL	
Measles (including German Measles).	13	.042	243	.793
Scarlet Fever	3	.009	524	1.711
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	24	.078	497	1.62
Whooping Cough	16	.052	359 since Oct.	1.172
Fever (including Typhus, Enteric and Continued Fevers)	2	.006	8	.026
Diarrhoea	32	.104	not notifiable	
	90	.293	1631	5.326



# SMALL POX.

There were no cases of Small-pox reported during 1939.

## VACCINATION.

Under the Local Government Act, 1929, the functions relating to Vaccination came under the control of the County Council as and from the 1st April, 1930, as one of the functions relating to infant life protection and public health, and which were formerly discharged by the Poor Law Authorities. This has the effect of making it obligatory to discharge vaccination functions under Public Health and not Poor Law powers. Since the transfer of these functions the work has been administered by the County Medical Officer, and all reports relating to Vaccination are submitted to him. According to the instructions of the Registrar-General, the following is a summary of the returns made by the Vaccination Officers relating to children whose births were registered during the year 1938.

	Per cent.
Successfully vaccinated ...	19.4
Insusceptible to vaccination	.04
Had Small-pox	Nil
Declaration of Conscientious Objection received ...	70.0
Died unvaccinated	3.8
Postponement by Medical Certificate..	.9
Removal to districts, the Vaccination Officers of which have been duly apprised	.9
Removal to places unknown	1.7
Number of cases not included under any of the above-named headings ...	3.0

## SCARLET FEVER.

There has been a decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, 524 cases being notified, as compared with 1198 in 1938, 890 in 1937, 341 in 1936, 867 in 1935, 1253 in 1934. In 1939 there were 3 deaths, in 1938 2 deaths, in 1937 1 death, in 1936 5 deaths, in 1935 6 deaths, in 1934 11 deaths.

## DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year 1939 was 497 which is an increase compared with the figure for the previous year, when the number was 368. During 1937, 444 cases were notified; in 1936 362 cases, in 1935 438 cases, in 1934 835 cases. The deaths recorded in 1939 were 24; 1938, 18; 1937, 14; 1936, 19; 1935, 34; 1934, 74.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

Eight cases of Enteric Fever were notified in the year 1939; in 1938 there were 11 cases in 1937 there were 5 cases, in 1936 21 cases, in 1935 18 cases, in 1934 3 cases. There were two deaths in 1939. No deaths were recorded in the year 1938. There were two deaths during 1937. The cases notified to the County Medical Officer occurred in Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Pontypool and Risca Urban Districts and Abergavenny Rural District.

## ERYSIPELAS.

There were 97 cases of Erysipelas notified during the year 1939, as compared with 100 cases in 1938, 101 in 1937; 77 in 1936; 93 in 1935; 128 in 1934. The disease was fairly evenly spread throughout the County.





PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year 1939, notifications of 49 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were received under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, from the District Medical Officers of Health.

INFANTILE DIARRHOEA.

A number of cases of this disease were discovered during visits to homes through the year. Thirtytwo deaths were registered in children under two years of age, giving a death-rate of .104 per 1,000 population. All cases of which the Health Visitor has knowledge are visited, but it is obvious that very many cases do not come to her notice. This disease is not notifiable.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified during the year; in 1938 there were no cases; 2 cases were notified in 1937; 1 case in 1934; 5 cases in 1933; 3 cases in 1932. Ten deaths were recorded in 1939, compared with 1 in 1938, 6 in 1937, 1 in 1933, 2 in 1935, 2 in 1934.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Fortyone cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 35 cases in 1938, 24 cases in 1937, and 15 cases in 1936. Further details are given in the Maternity and Child Welfare Reports.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER AND ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

105 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever were notified to the County Medical Officer during the year 1939, as compared with 35 during the year 1938, and 8 cases in 1937. The number of deaths recorded during the year was 31. The cases were notified from the following Urban Districts - Abercarn, Abergavenny, Abertillery, Bedwas and Machen, Bedwellty, Blaenavon, Caerleon, Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale, Mynyddislwyn, Nantyglo and Blaina, Pontypool, Risca, Tredegar and Usk, and Chepstow, Magor and St. Mellons and Monmouth Rural Districts.

There were no cases of Acute Poliomyelitis during the year.

CHICKEN POX.

Fourteen cases of Chicken Pox were notified during 1939. The disease is not compulsorily notifiable.

MEASLES.

Measles has been a notifiable disease since October, 1939. 243 cases were notified during the year. 13 deaths were recorded during the year as compared with 6 in 1938 and 17 in 1937.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease has been notifiable since October 1939 - 359 cases were reported. The number of deaths was 16 compared with 10 in 1938 and 12 in 1937.



### INFLUENZA.

Information regarding the number of cases is difficult to obtain. The number of deaths in 1939, was 93 compared with 57 in 1938 and 115 in 1937.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (PNEUMONIA, MALARIA, DYSENTRY, ETC.,) REGULATIONS.

278 cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year 1939 as compared with 225 cases in 1938 and 336 in 1937. There were 214 deaths in 1939, 189 in 1938 and 191 in 1937. The notification of this disease is by no means satisfactory, and the figures relating to the number of notifications are no indication of the number of persons who actually suffered from the disease. The attention of the medical practitioners of the County is continually being brought to their duties under these Regulations. No cases of malaria or dysentery were notified during the year.

### CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer recorded during the year 1939 was 411. In 1938 there were 414 deaths, in 1937 345 deaths, in 1936 433 deaths, in 1935 422 deaths, in 1934 397 deaths. As in previous years, practically the whole of the deaths occurred in persons between the ages of 45 and 65 and upwards.

### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Arrangements are made under the Section of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the examination of persons with a view to the prevention of blindness, and assistance is granted by the appropriate Committee of the County Council. Spectacles are provided upon the recommendation of the Ophthalmic Surgeon and arrangements are made, where necessary, for operations to be performed, also the treatment in Hospital of persons ordinarily resident within the County and suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Tuberculosis Regulations (1930) and in the year 1939 344 primary cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 198 deaths were registered. Of other forms of Tuberculosis, 142 cases were notified and 31 deaths registered.

The total number of notifications received during the year was 385 Pulmonary and 150 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis of which 41 and 8 respectively were duplicates. Cases are sometimes notified to the District Medical Officers of Health by the patient's Medical Attendant and also by the Tuberculosis Physician, during the same week.

Registered deaths from Tuberculosis were again compared with the cases notified by the District Medical Officers of Health, and when it was found that a death registered by the District Registrar had not been notified by the District Medical Officer of Health, it was included in the same return of new cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health otherwise than by formal notification under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1930. Examination of these returns showed that there are still some District Medical Officers of Health who are not furnishing the Department with particulars of cases of Tuberculosis in spite of repeated efforts made by the staff of the County Public Health Department.





It will be observed from the table included below that there is a slight increase in the notification rates for Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and also an increase in the notification rates for Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The high notification rates can be attributed to the efforts of the Public Health Department in obtaining as far as possible correct records of Tuberculosis cases occurring in the districts from the District Medical Officers of Health.

Regarding the death rate from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, there has been an increase in the rate for Pulmonary cases while the rate for Non-Pulmonary cases shows a decrease.

The following table giving the notification rates and death rates per 1,000 of the estimated population, is submitted for the purpose of comparison:-

Year	Notification Rate per 1,000 of population.		Death rate per 1,000 of population.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1934	.89	.36	.66	.13
1935	1.03	.32	.68	.14
1936	.83	.30	.57	.11
1937	.94	.35	.65	.16
1938	1.01	.44	.60	.14
1939	1.25	.48	.64	.101

.....

The detailed reports of the Tuberculosis Physicians are not included in this abridged report, but full information of the work carried out by these Officers in Monmouthshire of the Welsh National Memorial Association will be found in the Quarterly reports of the County Tuberculosis Committee, and in more detail in the Annual Report of the Welsh National Memorial Association.



Summary of notifications by District Medical Officers of Health to the County Medical Officer, under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, during the period 1st, January, 1939, to the 31st, December, 1939, with the number of Deaths notified by the Registrar General.

Age Periods.	Primary Notifications on Form A.					Age Periods.	Deaths.				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females			Males	Females	Males	Females	
0	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	3	9	9	22	1	-	-	-	1	1
5	7	3	14	18	42	2	-	-	1	3	8
10	8	12	11	13	44	5	-	7	3	4	14
15	26	32	12	10	80	15	33	37	4	5	79
20	33	36	1	15	85	25	20	23	1	-	44
25	45	54	3	12	114	35	17	12	-	1	30
30	26	20	5	1	52	45	8	10	-	1	19
35	11	6	6	-	23	55	16	5	3	-	24
40	12	2	1	1	16	65	5	4	-	-	9
45 and wards	3	4	-	-	7	75	-	1	-	-	1
	172	172	62	80	486		99	99	16	15	229

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the period 1st, January, 1939, to the 31st, December, 1939, otherwise than by formal notification under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Age Periods.	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 & upwards	Total cases
Pulmonary Males	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	4	1	11
Pulmonary Females	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	1	1	1	9
Non-Pulmonary Males	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pulmonary Females	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3

Source of above Information.	No of Cases.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns (from local Registrars transferable deaths from Registrar General ...)	17	4
Posthumous notifications "Transfers" from other areas (other than transferable deaths) ...	3	-
Other Sources, if any ...	-	-

From the above it will be seen that 21 non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis were discovered through examination of the death returns received from the District Registrars.





# VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following is a summary of the work carried out at the Treatment Centre for the Administrative County at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

Dr. C.P. Ingram.

The period under review covers three months of the war and though the alterations in the Hospital to deal with casualties due to enemy action necessitates the removal of the Clinic to another part of the buildings the work has been carried out as usual and without a break.

There has been a slight increase in the number of patients attending for the first time, most marked in those suffering from syphilis, but the large increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease, which, judging by the experience of the last war, might have been expected, has, so far, not been apparent - a tribute to the value of the treatment which has been carried out in the intervening years.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of attendances, probably due to two factors - (1) reduced facilities for travelling and the 'blackout', (2) an increase in employment and longer working hours.

The number of patients who were discharged as cured shows a slight increase and there is little change in the number who ceased to attend before completing treatment.

Dr. Mary H.M. Gordon.

During the year under review 175 new cases attended as against 221 in 1938, the disease being due to a diminution in the number of Gonorrhoea attending for the first time and to the lessened number of non-venereal cases reporting.

Resulting from the large increase in the number of new cases of gonorrhoea reporting in 1938, there was a corresponding rise this year in the number of cases of Gonorrhoea discharged cured. Fewer cases of syphilis attended for the first time than in 1938.

As the period under consideration includes only four weeks of the war-period any comments on Clinic statistics brought about by the war will be reserved till next year. Decreased facilities for transport caused a fall in the attendances immediately after the outbreak of war.

The work of the Clinic was carried out on the same lines as in the previous year, and more extensive use was made of the new Sulphonamide preparation M. & B. 693

The work accomplished during the year by the Lady Enquiry Officer, Nurse E.M. Walters, was as follows :-

Number of visits paid in the Administrative County :-			
	1939	1938	
To new cases which came to her knowledge and which had not undergone treatment ...	405	462	
To old cases in which visit to the Treatment Centre had been discontinued before completion of treatment, also to old cases still under treatment ...	1494	1676	
To members of Voluntary Agencies, District Nurses etc.	329	384	





1. COUNTY LABORATORY, COUNTY HALL.

Return of Specimens examined.

	1939										Total	Previous Year 1938
	For det- ection of Spiro- chaetes.		For det- ection of Gonoco- cci		Comp- lement Fixat- ion Test (Gono- rhoea)		For Wassor- mann reaction (Syphilis)		Other exam- inat- ions.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
From County of Monmouth Treatment Centre Practitioners	17	-	613	2038	228	177	358	399	16	8	3914	3486
	-	-	106	131	14	9	280	144	16	9	709	801
From County Borough of Newport Treatment Centre Practitioners	31	-	320	557	135	45	323	217	12	2	1642	1535
	2	-	57	122	11	7	265	144	9	5	622	538
From Other Districts												
Glamorganshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	8
Brecon	6	-	30	-	7	1	13	2	-	-	59	25
Lancashire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Gloucestershire	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Cardiff	-	-	18	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	24	32
Cardmarthen	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hereford	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
TOTALS	56	-	1150	2908	402	239	1242	906	53	24	6980	6439

No. of doses of substitutes for Salvarsan supplied to  
Medical Practitioners :-

		1939		1938
Novarsenobillon	.6 gm	-	9	21
"	.45 "	-	25	8
"	.3 "	-	2	7
Totals			36	36
Stabilarsen	.6 gm.	-	15	-
(Boots)	.45 "	-	-	-
	.4 "	-	-	-
	.3 "	-	-	3
Totals			15	3
Kharsulphan	.6 gm	-	-	3
"	.45 "	-	-	2
"	.3 "	-	-	2
"	.15 "	-	-	1
Totals			-	8



		1937	1938
Neokharsivan	.6 gm	-	-
"	.45 "	-	-
"	.3 "	-	-
Totals		-	-
Sulfarsenol	.3 gm	-	-
"	.45 "	-	-
"	.6 "	-	-
Totals		-	-
Sulphostab	.6 gm	-	1
"	.45	-	21
"	.36	-	6
"	.3	30	1
"	.24	-	11
"	.18	-	6
"	.15	-	6
		30	52

The number of practitioners upon the register for the supply of salvarsan substitutes is twenty-three.

## 2. TREATMENT CENTRE.

(Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.  
Returns of the Medical Officer of Centre, to the Medical Officer of Health, relating to persons residing in the Administrative County of Monmouth.

	1937			1938		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Number of persons dealt with at or in connection with the Out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be :-						
Suffering from Syphilis	31	17	48	23	9	32
" " Soft Chancre	15	-	15	16	-	16
" " Gonorrhoea	162	71	233	143	112	255
Not suffering from Ven. Diseases	39	87	126	43	100	143
	247	175	422	225	221	446
Number of persons discharged from the Out-Pat. Clinic after completion of treatment :-						
Syphilis	7	4	11	10	8	18
Soft Chancre	8	-	8	9	-	9
Gonorrhoea	80	44	124	70	27	97
Not suffering from ven disease	33	77	110	35	76	111
	128	125	253	124	111	235
Number of persons who ceased to attend the Out-patient Clinic without completing treatment, and who were suffering from :-						
Syphilis	18	31	49	17	28	45
Soft Chancre	3	-	3	2	-	2
Gonorrhoea	68	57	125	51	62	113
Not suffering from venereal disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
	89	88	177	70	90	160
Total attendances of all persons at the Out patient Clinic who were :-						
Suffering from Syphilis	1394	1159	2553	1551	1407	2958
" " Soft Chancre	52	-	52	64	-	64
" " Gonorrhoea	2434	3337	3771	2807	1485	4292
Not suffering from ven. disease	64	299	363	88	255	343
	3944	2795	6739	4510	3147	7657



	1939			1938		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
5. Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of treatment given to persons suffering from :-						
Syphilis	121	78	199	162	102	264
Gonorrhoea	165	350	515	381	326	707
Soft Chancre	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not suffering from Venereal disease	-	-	-	14	-	14
Observation Cases	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Number of persons treated with Salvarsan substitutes	286	423	724	557	428	985
7. Number of doses of Salvarsan sub given:-	41	70	111	34	84	118
Name of Drugs						
Novarsenobillon						
Stabilarsan						
Kharsulphan						
Sulphostab						
Arseno Argentium						
dose .05	-	-	-	-	-	-
dose .1	-	6	6	-	1	-
dose .15	-	4	4	9	6	1
dose .2	1	42	43	-	40	15
dose .25	-	5	5	-	27	46
dose .3	29	108	137	24	27	27
dose .45	96	100	196	63	152	176
dose .6	35	17	50	50	197	260
dose .75	-	-	-	1	32	82
Name of Drug - Bismuth dose .2 gm	332	234	566	381	449	830
Quinostabo (sol.) dose .3 gm	291	189	480	357	69	426
Total	782	765	1487	855	979	1864
Examination of Pathological Material						
Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to an independent Laboratory -						
For Detection of spirochaetes	17	-	17	21	-	21
" " gonococci	613	2093	2711	598	1555	2153
Complement Fixation Test	228	177	405	213	177	390
For Wassermann reaction	358	399	757	462	430	892
Cerebro Spinal Fluid	9	5	14	10	5	15
Others	7	3	10	11	4	15
Totals	1232	2682	3914	1315	2171	3486

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work has been dealt with in the special report which has been published.

#### BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920 and 1938.

The number of blind persons upon the County Register at the 31st March, 1940, was 773, 379 males and 399 females.

The Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon to this Authority, Dr. W.J. Roche, examined at his consulting Room, Newport, 268 cases which were referred to this Department for examination under the Blind Persons Acts, 1920, and 1938. The results of his examinations were 114 certified blind, 111 not blind and in 43 cases glasses were prescribed in order to prevent blindness.

In addition, Dr. Evelyn D. Owen, Assistant Medical Officer, made 56 domiciliary examinations as the cases were unable to travel to Newport. 27 of whom were blind, 26 not blind and 3 cases recommended glasses.





Grants are made to the unemployable blind after consideration of the cases by the Blind Persons Act Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee and during the financial year 1939 - 1940 weekly grants were made to 434 persons, the total amount of the grants being £11.438.

Association for the Blind of the County Borough of Newport and the Administrative County of Monmouth continues to provide social amenities for the blind persons. Christmas treats were organised in many of the districts and each blind person in the County received a gift of the value of 5/- and each registered blind child 2/6.

There were 24 local Blind Welfare Area Committees in the County helping in the work. These Area Committees have rendered valuable service to the Blind of Monmouthshire.

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